

VZCZCXRO2669  
OO RUEHBI RUEHCI  
DE RUEHCI #0033 0281352  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 281352Z JAN 08  
FM AMCONSUL KOLKATA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1851  
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1735  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI IMMEDIATE 0791  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI IMMEDIATE 0796  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0526  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0523  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0383  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 2263

UNCLAS KOLKATA 000033

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: WEST BENGAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE JAN. 16 EXPLOSION NEAR  
CONSULATE WAS CHEMICAL BOMB

REF: KOLKATA 0016

11. (SBU) On January 28, ConGen met with West Bengal Home  
Secretary Prasad Ranjan Ray, the state's senior official

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responsible for security, regarding the explosion which occurred  
200 meters from the Consulate on January 16 (reftel). The  
explosion occurred a block from the Consulate on Shakespeare  
Sarani (street), in front of the Hindustan Unilever House,  
injuring five pedestrians and shattering some windows of  
neighboring buildings. Ray confirmed that after much forensic  
investigation, available information indicates that the  
explosion was likely caused by a chemical bomb. He noted that  
initially the cause of the explosion was hard to determine as  
there was no standard high-explosive residue such as from RDX,  
dynamite or others. However, trace amounts of potentially  
explosive chemicals were found after some additional  
investigation.

12. (SBU) On January 17, Deputy Commissioner Special Branch  
Damayanti Sen told Post that since initially no explosive  
residues were found at the site, a team of experts from Indian  
Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur and the Central Forensic  
Science Laboratory were researching the explosion. The team  
will submit its findings on February 1. Sen said informally  
that initial indications showed some nitrate-based  
biological/chemical reaction may have taken place at the blast  
site.

13. (SBU) Ray did not know who might have placed the bomb on  
Shakespeare Sarani or why. He was afraid that it might have  
been an effort at extortion directed at a business in the area,  
but again he had no concrete information. ConGen asked for a  
copy of the IIT report once released on February 1 and Ray said  
that he would provide any additional information that he could  
share.

JARDINE